



# SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

## GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH- LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217  
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/speech> P: 478-207-2440 F: 866- 888-1308

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## Update from the Director

*Randy Vaughn*

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be

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working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

## About the Board

The Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology consists of eight members: three licensed speech-language pathologists, three licensed audiologists, one certified otolaryngologist and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets twelve times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

## 2010 Meeting Dates

May 24, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.  
 June 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.  
 July 26, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.  
 August 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.  
 September 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.  
 October 25, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.  
 November 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.  
 December 13, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Approved minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/speech](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/speech)

## Active Licensees

Speech–Language Pathologist: 3,193  
 Speech Pathologist Aide: 42  
 Audiologist: 416  
 PCE Temporary License: 354  
 Audiologist Assistant: 6

## Board Members and Staff

Elizabeth F. (Beth) Larrimore, Chair – Speech Pathologist  
 Denise Sheppard, Vice–Chair – Audiologist  
 Robin Bohannon – Audiologist  
 Andrea Boswell – Speech Language Pathologist  
 Susan Daughtry – Speech Language Pathologist  
 Lori M. Smith – Audiologist  
 Terri Williams – Consumer Member  
 Anita Martin  
 Executive Director  
 Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech–Language Pathology and Audiology

## Expiration Dates

**Audiologists:** March 31 of odd numbered years  
**Audiology Assistants:** March 31 of odd numbered years  
**Speech Pathologist Aide:** March 31 of odd numbered years  
**Speech–Language Pathologist:** March 31 of odd numbered years

**“It is illegal to practice audiology or speech pathology with an expired license.”**

## Actions Taken by the Board

**January:** The Board voted to approve four applications for licensure as audiologists, one application for licensure as an audiology assistant, 15 applications for licensure as paid clinical experience, 32 applications for licensure as speech language pathologists, and two applications for licensure as speech pathologist aides.

**February:** The Board voted to approve three audiologists for licensure, 23 speech language pathologist applications for licensure, and 11 speech pathologists for paid clinical experience.

**March:** The Board voted to approve three audiologists for licensure, 23 applications for licensure as speech language pathologists, and 11 speech pathologists for paid clinical experience.

## License Renewal Process

### How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478–207–2440, or by submitting a written request.

### Disciplinary Issues:

The Board addresses these issues on a case-by-case basis and applies sanctions to those who violate the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech–Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/speech](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/speech).

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech–Language Pathology and Audiology website.

*Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43–44–13 or at O.C.G.A. § 43–1–19, which can be found on the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech–Language Pathology and Audiology website.*

## Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech–Language Pathology and Audiology to regulate the licensing and practice of speech pathology and audiology. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43–44 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

### Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted online at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

**Investigations:**

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

**Notification Process:**

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which are found on the Board website. Public disciplinary actions may be found on our website at: [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/)

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207–2440.